(a) controlling said display monitor to display one or more screens having a plurality of fields that can be filled with respective worklist search parameters inputted using said operator interface;

(b) formulating a worklist search request message as a function of the contents of said plurality of fields in response to input of a search command using said operator interface;

(c) opening an association with a remote worklist broker via said network;

(d) sending said worklist search request message to the remote worklist broker via said networking port while said association is open;

(e) controlling said display monitor to display at least portions of the worklist search results received from the remote worklist broker in response to step (d);

(f) registering portions of said worklist search results belonging to a particular patient in response to input of a patient selection command using said operator interface after step (e);

(g) controlling said scanning subsystem to acquire an image in response to input of a scan command using said operator interface after step (f); and

(h) storing said acquired image in association with said registered portions of said worklist search results in response to input of a save command using said operator interface.

30. The scanner as recited in claim 29, wherein said computer is further programmed to control said display monitor to display said acquired image.

31. The scanner as recited in claim 29, wherein one of said screens further comprises fields that can be filled with worklist display format instructions inputted using said operator interface, said worklist display format instructions indicating what items in the worklist search results should be displayed on said display monitor in step (e).

32. The scanner as recited in claim 31, wherein said one screen further comprises fields that can be filled with worklist display order instructions inputted using said operator interface, said worklist display order instructions indicating the order in which said items should be displayed on said display monitor in step (e).

33. The scanner as recited in claim 29, wherein said registering step comprises automatically entering said portions of said worklist search results belonging to said particular patient menu into a new patient data file.

34. The scanner as recited in claim 29, wherein said worklist search request message is formatted in accordance with DICOM protocol.

35. The scanner as recited in claim 29, wherein said scanning subsystem comprises a multiplicity of ultrasound transducer elements.

36. A system comprising a network, scanner connected to said network, and a worklist broker connected to said network, wherein said worklist broker comprises means for retrieving stored patient information from a database in response to a worklist search request message received via said network, and wherein said scanner comprises an operator interface, a display monitor, a scanning subsystem for acquiring data representing an image of a target object, a hard disk, and a computer programmed to perform the following steps:

(a) controlling said display monitor to display one or more screens having a plurality of fields that can be filled with respective worklist search parameters inputted using said operator interface;

(b) formulating said worklist search request message as a function of the contents of said plurality of fields in response to input of a search command using said operator interface;

(c) opening an association with said remote worklist broker via said network;

(d) sending said worklist search request message to the remote worklist broker via said network while said association is open;

(e) controlling said display monitor to display at least portions of the worklist search results received from said remote worklist broker in response to step (d);

(f) registering portions of said worklist search results belonging to a particular patient in response to input of a patient selection command via said operator interface after step (e);

(g) controlling said scanning subsystem to acquire an image in response to input of a scan command via said operator interface after step (f); and

(h) storing said acquired image on said hard disk in association with said registered portions of said worklist search results in response to input of a save command via said operator interface.

37. The system as recited in claim 36, further comprising a storage device connected to said network, wherein said computer is further programmed to perform the following steps:

(i) opening an association with said storage device via said network; and

(j) sending a file comprising said acquired image and said associated portions of said worklist search results to said storage device via said network in response to input of a store command via said operator interface while said association is open.

38. The system as recited in claim 37, wherein said worklist search request message and said file for storage are formatted in accordance with DICOM protocol.

39. The system as recited in claim 36, wherein said scanning subsystem comprises a multiplicity of ultrasound transducer elements.

40. A scanner comprising:

a scanning subsystem for acquiring data representing an image of a target object;

a networking port for communicating with a network;

a hard disk;

a graphical user interface comprising at least one screen for enabling a system operator to define the parameters of a worklist search request to be transmitted from said scanner via said networking port and then select a patient from a worklist displayed when worklist search results are received by said scanner via said networking port; and

a worklist manager that automatically attaches the worklist search results for said selected patient to each acquired image to be saved on said hard disk.

41. The scanner as recited in claim 40, further comprising a task that constructs a DICOM object comprising said worklist